



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace, MI

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC):

- Dan Kennedy, Chair
- Miles Falck
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- David Shaw, Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement Division
- Cody Norton, Large Carnivore Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Meeting minutes

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:02 a.m. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. All other council members were present.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was made by **Council Member Friedlander** to accept the day's agenda. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Chair Kennedy** requested to add Interim Report under old business as Item B. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the amendment to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2021, meeting. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to approve the October 10, 2021, minutes. The motion was supported by **Council Member Pershinske**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Pershinske** requested an amendment to add to the Legislative

Comments – “All six representatives were opposed to legal wolf management hunting and trapping.” **Council Member Friedlander** requested the word “legal” be removed from the comment. **Council Member Pershinske** agreed. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to add to the Legislative Comments – “All six Representatives were opposed to wolf management hunting and trapping”. The addition passed 5 Yea (Friedlander, Kennedy, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) – 1 abstain (Falck)

Council Member Pershinske also requested an amendment with the following statement after the presentation “Factors Limiting Deer Abundance in the Upper Peninsula” by Brian Roell, DNR to read as follows: “much discussion followed with **Council Member Pershinske** who was not in complete agreement with some of the conclusions reached in the deer abundance report. Specifically, the impact wolves have on the whitetail population.” **Council Member Friedlander** asked for clarification on the information provided in the minutes stating as previously discussed, the minutes were to reflect the motions and voting made by the council, and the interim report would provide the majority and minority positions. **Chair Kennedy** noted for the council members, the information the minutes should provide information according to the Open Meetings Act and the WMAC should focus more on the recommendations rather than spending the time on the minutes. For the sake of moving on with the agenda and passing the October minutes, he would support the two amendments by **Council Member Pershinske**. **Council Member Pershinske** stated it’s important to him that everyone in the general audience know exactly where the council members stand on a particular issue if it’s significant as this comment. **Chair Kennedy** stated the interim report will be a valuable resource for the public to review the opinions for the votes on the motions. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to the amendment by **Council Member Pershinske**. The amendment passed 5 Yea (Friedlander, Kennedy, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) – 1 abstain (Falck).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion to amend the minutes in three areas stating “no additional discussion” changed to “after additional discussion” to reflect there had been discussion regarding each topic. **Council Member Pershinske** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to the amendment by **Council Member Friedlander**. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kennedy called for a vote to approve October 10, 2021, meeting minutes with the amendments. The motion to approve October 10, 2021, meeting minutes with the amendments passed unanimously.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to pass the November 5, 2021, meeting minutes. **Council Member Friedlander** made a motion to approve the November 5, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to approve the November 5, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council Updates

- a. Section 6.5: maintain habitat necessary to sustain a viable wolf population (Brian Roell, Wildlife Division)
- b. Section 6.3: enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Division answered questions regarding Section 6.3 and introduced Dave Shaw, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement Division to present the enforcement regulations.

Chair Kennedy requested a break at 10:35.

Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public comment which began at 10:46.

- a. 10 Minute Comments

Gary Gorniak, Vice President, Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance

- b. 5 Minute Comments

Steve Dey

Tony Demboski

Jeff LaHuis

Marcie Terwilliger

Vince Leveille

Paul Lahuis

Wallace Matthew

John Bissell

George Lindquist

David Johnson

Nichole Biber

- c. 3 Minute Comments

Ray Lowetz

Stephen King

Joe Kaiser

Jodi Kaiser

Tom Farnquist

John Rickley

Jim Hoy

Mark Spencer

Robert Swailes

Selden Collins

Phyllis Colegrove

Todd Davis

Chair Kennedy adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 12:20 p.m. The WMAC adjourned for lunch and returned at 1:12 pm.

New Business

- a. Review recommendations for 2015 Wolf Management Plan
 - i. Section 6.5: Maintain habitat necessary to sustain a viable wolf population.
No discussion
 - ii. Section 6.3: Enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population - LED presentation.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- Contact prosecutors to gather input on 6.3 of the wolf management plan. Getting buy-in at the ground level might help improve the process.
- Loss of hunting/trapping privileges does have a deterrent impact.
- Increase public awareness via public education.
 - Remind hunters and trappers of the rules and regulations around wolves.
 - Issue press release following a conviction.
 - Education program on the difference between a coyote and a wolf.
- Have penalties identified during hunter safety training.

Old Business

- a. 2015 Wolf Management Plan Section 6.2: Maintain active research and monitoring programs to support science-based wolf management.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles: actively seek research and funding partners who represent the full range of perspectives on wolves and wolf management.* **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles: increase cooperative working relationships with federally recognized Tribes.* **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Thorman** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles: include positive interactions with wolves.* After discussion **Council Member Pershinske** made a motion to table the motion until the February meeting. The motion was

supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to table the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles:* address the impact and effects of climate change of wolves. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed 4 Yea (Falck, Friedlander, Kennedy, Trotter) – 2 Nay (Pershinske, Thorman).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles:* include investigation of biological and social questions related to wolves and wolf management. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion failed Yea (Friedlander) – Nay (Pershinske, Kennedy, Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Abstained (Falck).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** – *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles:* use innovative and effective non-lethal measures to address conflicts.

Council Member Trotter made a motion to amend the motion to – examine effective non-lethal measures to address conflicts. The amendment was supported by **Council Member Pershinske**. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the amendment to the motion. The amendment to the motion passed 4 Yea (Kennedy, Pershinske Thorman, Trotter) – 2 Nay (Falck, Friedlander).

Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion amended by **Council Member Trotter**. **Introductory** – *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize and expand its science-based research and literature review and regularly communicate the results to the public based on the following principles:* examine effective non-lethal measures to address conflicts. The motion passed 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Abstained (Friedlander).

Council Member Trotter made a motion to recommend prioritizing research and literature review that examines: – How to maintain prey populations required to provide for sustainable human uses and a viable wolf population. – Best management practices for public reporting of wolf interactions to fulfill the DNR's obligation to use best available science. – Adaptive behavioral shifts and stress-related mortality of deer due to predators. – The changing diet of wolves across seasons and the proportional impact of wolves on their prey (both game and nongame). – Whether wolves may limit diseases in ungulates. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After discussion **Council Member Trotter** withdrew her motion.

- b. Interim Report – discussion regarding the content and status of the of the recommendations provided to DNR/Executive Division.

Next Steps or information for January 19, 2022, meeting:

- Presentation from Shawn Riley on results of Public Attitudes of Wolves in Michigan.
- Update from Cody on the status of the wolf white paper.
- Dates and locations were provided for January – May 2022.

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Friedlander** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2022, at the Quality Inn & Suites, located at 2603 N. Lincoln Rd., Escanaba, MI 49829.

Approved:



Daniel Kennedy, Chair